

Daily Devotions

The following plan may be helpful. When I was at University, all the Christians in our group used the reading plan below so we all read the same scripture each morning and so we could talk about the things the Lord said to each of us. At University, I read all 3 readings for each day. Now, I have less time so I read one Old Testament reading and the New Testament reading each day, so it takes me 2 years to read through the OT and 1 year to read through the NT.

For a new Christian, it is best to start off with one of the Gospels. Read that first and then continue with the plan, reading the New Testament reading only.

Here is a four point plan to help you with your reading and meditation.

SOAP Process

1. Scripture

Read the section in your Bible for today's date. Take time reading and allow God to speak to you. When you are done, look for a verse that particularly spoke to you and write the scripture reference in your journal.

2. Observation

What do you think God is saying in this scripture? Ask the Holy Spirit for help. Write this key thought in your own words in your journal.

3. Application

How does this apply to your life right now. Look for:

- How is Jesus revealed
- A promise to claim
- A principle to practice
- A blessing to enjoy
- An error to avoid
- A warning to heed
- A truth to apply
- A command to obey
- An example to follow

Remember, you are not doing a Bible Study during your devotional time. The points above are an aid, not a set of rules. Now, write how this scripture can apply to you today.

Some people add a space here in their journal for what they did do about it. This is to ensure that we actually do something. I personally believe that is too legalistic. If we get an action item every day, we may not be able to put all of them into practice, but we will definitely be able to put some of them into practice. It is not a competition.

4. Prayer

This can be as simple as asking God to help you use this scripture, or it may be a request for greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Now, write it out.

If this seems a little overwhelming, take it slow and keep it simple. No matter how you decide to do your devotions, the important thing is to show up for your daily appointment, because God is always waiting for you!